

Lake County
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Introduction

The Lake County Mitigation 20/20 Task Force has been established to make the population, neighborhoods, businesses and institutions of the community more resistant to the impacts of future disasters. The Task Force is undertaking a comprehensive, detailed evaluation of the vulnerabilities of the community to all types of future natural, technological and societal hazards in order to identify ways to make the county more resistant to their impacts.

The Lake County Mitigation 20/20 Task Force derives its name from its vision for creating a disaster-resistant future for the entire community, by having:

- *“20/20 hindsight into the mistakes of the past that made the community more vulnerable to the impacts of disasters,”*
- *“20/20 insight into how the community is currently vulnerable to the impacts of disasters,”*
- *“20/20 foresight on the means to make the community more resistant to the impacts of future disasters,”*
- *“In order to create a disaster-resistant community by the Year 2020.”*

Purpose

The Lake County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is intended by the Task Force to serve many purposes. These include the following:

Provide a Methodical, Substantive Approach to Mitigation Planning

The approach utilized by the Lake County Task Force relies on a step-wise application of soundly-based planning concepts in a methodical process to identify vulnerabilities to future disasters and to propose the mitigation initiatives necessary to avoid or minimize those vulnerabilities. Each step in the planning process builds upon the previous, so that there is a high level of assurance that the mitigation initiatives proposed by the participants have a valid basis for both their justification and priority for implementation. One key purpose of this plan is to document that process and to present its results to the community.

Enhance Public Awareness and Understanding

The Task Force is interested in finding ways to make the community as a whole more aware of the natural, technological and societal hazard that threaten the public health and safety, the economic vitality of businesses, and the operational capability of important institutions. The plan will identify the hazards threatening Lake County and provide an assessment of the relative level of risk they pose. It will also detail the specific vulnerabilities of the neighborhoods of Lake County and many of the facilities that are important to the community's daily life. The plan also will include a number of proposals of ways to avoid or minimize those vulnerabilities. This information will be very helpful to individuals that wish to understand how the community could become safer from the impacts of future disasters.

The Task Force organization also includes a Public Information Committee whose purpose is to provide information and education to the public regarding ways to be more protected from the impacts of future disasters. The public information committee will be active in communicating with the public and engaging interested members of the community in the planning process. This document, and the analyses contained herein, is the principal information resource for this activity.

Create a Decision Tool for Management

The Lake County Local Mitigation Plan will provide information needed by the managers and leaders of local government, business and industry, community associations and other key institutions and organizations to take actions to address vulnerabilities to future disasters. It will also provide proposals for specific projects and programs that are needed to eliminate or minimize those vulnerabilities.

These proposals, called "mitigation initiatives" in the plan, will be justified on the basis of their economic benefits using a uniform technical analysis, as well as prioritized for implementation using ten objective criteria. This approach is intended to provide a decision tool for the management of participating organizations and agencies regarding why the proposed mitigation initiatives should be implemented, which should be implemented first, and the economic and public welfare benefits of doing so.

Promote Compliance with State and Federal Program Requirements

There are a number of state and federal grant programs, policies, and regulations that encourage or even mandate local government to develop and maintain a comprehensive hazard mitigation plan. This plan is specifically intended to assist the participating local governments to comply with these requirements, and to enable them to more fully and quickly respond to state and

federal funding opportunities for mitigation-related projects. Because the plan will define, justify and prioritize mitigation initiatives that have been formulated through a technically valid hazard analysis and vulnerability assessment process, the participating organizations will be better prepared to more quickly and easily develop the necessary grant application materials for seeking state and federal funding.

Enhance Local Policies for Hazard Mitigation Capability

A component of the hazard mitigation planning process is the analysis of the existing policy, program and regulatory basis for control of growth and development. This process involves cataloging the current mitigation-related policies of local government so that they can be compared the hazards that threaten the jurisdiction and the relative risks they pose to the community. When the risks posed to the community by a specific hazard are not adequately addressed in the community's policy or regulatory framework, the impacts of future disasters can be even more severe. The planning process utilized by the Task Force supports detailed comparison of the community's policy controls to the level of risk posed by specific hazards. This comparison supports and justifies efforts to propose enhancements in the policy basis for could or should be promulgated by the involved local jurisdictions to create a more disaster-resistant future for the community.

Assure Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination of Mitigation-Related Programming

A key purpose of the planning process is to ensure that proposals for mitigation initiatives are reviewed and coordinated among the participating jurisdictions within the County. In this way, there is a high level of confidence that mitigation initiatives proposed by one jurisdiction or participating organization, when implemented, will be compatible with the interests of adjacent jurisdictions and unlikely to duplicate or interfere with mitigation initiatives proposed by others. The operating procedures of the Task Force mandate that all proposed mitigation initiatives, regardless of their origin, will be coordinated among all of the participants in the planning prior to their approval for incorporation into the plan.

Create Jurisdiction-Specific Hazard Mitigation Plans for Implementation

A key purpose of the Lake County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is to provide each participating local jurisdiction with a specific plan of action that can be adopted and implemented pursuant to its own authorities and responsibilities. Therefore, Section 8 of the plan will contain a separate local mitigation plan for each separate participating jurisdiction. This separate plan can be adopted and implemented for the jurisdiction's own purposes and on its own schedule. In this way, the format of the plan and the operational concept of the planning process ensure that proposed mitigation initiatives are coordinated and prioritized effectively among

jurisdictions, while nonetheless allowing each jurisdiction to adopt only the proposed mitigation initiatives that it actually has the authority or responsibility to implement when resources are available.

Provide a Flexible Approach to the Planning Process

The planning process is very flexible in meeting the analysis and documentation needs of the planning process. The planning program utilized provides for the creation of this document, as well as the preparation of numerous other reports regarding the technical analyses undertaken. In this way, the plan assists the Task Force with utilizing a full range of information in the technical analysis and the formulation of proposed mitigation initiatives for incorporation into this plan.